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TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

Major outstanding issues in the negotiations relating to the code of conduct on transnational corporations

Note by the Secretariat

1. At the reconvened special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, held on 24 May 1990, the Commission requested the Secretariat to identify the major outstanding issues with regard to the formulation of a code of conduct on Transnational Corporations. This note has been prepared in response to that request.

2. The major outstanding issues that emerged from the informal consultations of the enlarged Bureau of the Commission in January, April and May 1990 are as follows:

(a) The formulation of an appropriate reference in the code of conduct to international law/international obligations;

(b) The provision governing the settlement of disputes between host Governments and entities of transnational corporations;

(c) The precise formulation of the standard on national treatment of transnational corporations by host countries;

(d) The general issue of the implications of current international developments, in particular other ongoing international negotiations, for the provisions of the code which had previously been agreed ad referendum.

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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE ELIMINATION OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACCIDENT AT THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Report of the Secretary-General

INTRODUCTION

1. By their letter of 26 April 1990, the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian SSR and the Ukrainian SSR requested the inclusion of an additional item entitled "International co-operation in the elimination of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant" in the agenda of the first regular session of 1990 of the Economic and Social Council. By its decision 1990/211 of 18 May 1990, the Council deferred consideration of the item to its second regular session of 1990 and requested the Secretary-General to provide all relevant information on the activities of the United Nations system in order to assist it in the consideration of the item.

2. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 of the draft resolution on the subject (E/1990/L.21) submitted to the Council at its first regular session of 1990, the Secretary-General sought the assistance of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in preparing the present report.

3. The report contains a brief description of current and planned activities of the United Nations system related to the Chernobyl accident, including their terms of reference and progress achieved, based upon contributions and replies received from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Labour Organisation (ILO),

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the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Bank/International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the following offices and departments of the United Nations: the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV).

INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE FOR THE RESPONSE TO NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS (IAC/RNA)

4. In the immediate aftermath of the Chernobyl accident, in the spring of 1986, inter-agency consultations were convened at Vienna, involving in particular the organizations dealing with health and food questions: FAO, IAEA, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) and WHO.

5. During a special session of the IAEA General Conference, which was held in September 1986, two conventions were adopted: the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. Following the adoption of the conventions, inter-agency co-operation was expanded to other organizations and the Inter-Agency Committee for the Response to Nuclear Accidents (IAC/RNA) was formed. The following organizations have participated in the work of this Committee: ECE, FAO, ILO, IMO, UNDRO, UNEP, UNESCO, UNSCEAR, WHO and WMO.

6. IAC/RNA meets twice a year and on an ad hoc basis, if circumstances require it. The topics which are discussed in the meetings can be divided into two major categories: follow-up of activities concerning previous accidents (the Chernobyl accident, the Goiânia accident) and the planning and preparing of joint and co-ordinated action to be taken in case of a future accident.

7. In the discussions on follow-up activities, reports are made by committee members on reported accidents/incidents and rumours, on assistance rendered to member States, on projects and studies carried out by the various organizations, on data bases and on various other related activities.

8. In the area of activity regarding future potential accidents IAC/RNA has discussed, inter alia, intervention levels, monitoring networks and the reporting of monitoring results, channels of communications and the general structure of the implementation of the two conventions. In addition, questions of public information and its co-ordination during accident situations have been taken up. The participation of the international organizations in emergency exercises is encouraged, discussed and, following the exercise, evaluated.

9. A special session of IAC/RNA was convened to discuss the response to recent requests and appeals for assistance to mitigate the effects of the Chernobyl accident in the affected Republics of the USSR. It was recommended

at that session that the Committee be entrusted with the additional task of harmonizing the implementation of Chernobyl-related projects dealing with the elimination of the consequences of the accident, with the purpose of strengthening international co-operation and fostering co-ordinated national efforts.

UNITED NATIONS SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON THE EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION (UNSCEAR)

10. The terms of reference of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, which was established by the General Assembly at its tenth session, in 1955, are set out in Assembly resolution 913 (X). The Committee is composed of the following member States: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Sudan, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

11. As part of its mandate to assess the sources and effects of ionizing radiation, UNSCEAR has evaluated the world population's exposure to radiation resulting from the Chernobyl accident. This evaluation was included in the 1988 report of UNSCEAR to the General Assembly. Numerous detailed measurement results were available from 34 countries. These results were used to compute the first-year doses and to establish the general patterns of exposures. The results were then extended to all other areas of the northern hemisphere, based on a deposition-distance relationship. The doses from continued exposure to deposited radionuclides were estimated. The work of UNSCEAR has established a general methodology to evaluate exposures from this type of radiation source and has contributed to more comparable results between countries. This experience will be used to help corroborate doses to individuals in the region of the accident and to estimate the health risks that could be associated with these exposures.

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

12. FAO has established a Standing Committee on Radiation Effects on Natural Resources and Agricultural Products.

13. In December 1986, FAO convened an expert consultation on radionuclide contamination of foods, which recommended interim international radionuclide action levels for foods moving in international trade. Subsequently, in July 1989, at its eighteenth session, the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission adopted, for use in international trade, guideline levels for radionuclides in food following accidental nuclear contamination. The subject remains under constant review.

14. In response to government requests, FAO is currently involved in organizing regional training programmes for food control officials covering sampling techniques and analytical methodology for determining levels of radionuclide contamination of foods.

15. FAO Soils Bulletin No. 61, "Radioactive fallout in soils, crops and foods", was published in 1989 and provides advice to member Governments on implications with respect to agricultural land and water supplies.

16. FAO is following developments regarding the establishment by IAEA of a research centre for on-site post-Chernobyl accident international studies, as proposed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in June 1989. FAO has an interest in the activities of the proposed centre, particularly in the area of rehabilitation of soil, post-accident effects on crops and livestock, and food contamination.

17. FAO collaborates actively in the project developed by IAEA entitled "The radiological consequences in the USSR from the Chernobyl accident: assessment of health and environmental effects and evaluation of protective measures". An FAO expert joined the International Experts' Preparatory Mission to the affected areas in both Phase I and Phase II of the project. FAO and IAEA have recently had further consultations to strengthen co-operation in their future work related to this project.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

18. In October 1989, the Government of the USSR requested IAEA to organize an assessment by international experts of the concept which the USSR has evolved to enable the population to live safely in areas affected by radioactive contamination following the Chernobyl accident, and an evaluation of the effectivenes of the steps taken in these areas to safeguard the health of the population.

19. A project on the radiological consequences in the USSR from the Chernobyl accident: assessment of health and environmental effects and evaluation of protective measures, has been organized by IAEA, and is being executed by a team of international experts, including participants from the Commission of the European Communities, FAO, UNEP, UNSCEAR and WHO. The team of independent international experts will assess the radiological consequences in the USSR of the Chernobyl accident, including health and environmental effects, and evaluate the protective measures taken by the Soviet authorities. The findings of the study are expected to be made available later in 1990. IAEA will publish these findings and arrange for open meetings at which the results of the study will be presented.

20. From 25 to 30 March 1990 an International Experts' Preparatory Mission, accompanied by two members of the USSR Parliament, visited several villages in contaminated areas in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Russian Federation. The experts reviewed information provided by scientific organizations, hospitals, clinics and agricultural centres, both in the affected areas and in the capitals of the Republics. They also held meetings with the local population in the villages, political representatives and non-governmental organizations.

21. The results of this preparatory mission were submitted to an International Advisory Committee, which approved the work plan to be implemented. This includes the corroboration of data to be provided by the USSR as well as an evaluation of the protective measures taken. It further envisages making recommendations on future action in the affected regions. Upon completion of the project, a report is to be prepared by the International Advisory Committee and published by IAEA. Meetings will be held at Kiev and Minsk to discuss the findings contained in the report.

22. The implementation of the project is organized according to five major tasks, as follows:

(a) Historical portrayal of the events leading to the present situation and description of the current status;

(b) Corroboration of assessments of the environmental contamination from caesium, strontium, plutonium and hot particles;

(c) Corroboration of individual and collective dose assessments;

(d) Clinical health effects from radiation exposure and evaluation of the general health situation;

(e) Evaluation of protective measures: intervention criteria, action levels and countermeasures taken.

23. In addition to the above tasks, there are two other areas of activity. In the first, individual dose estimates will be carried out through distribution of personal dosimeters and whole body counting. In the second, specialist meetings will be organized between international and local experts in medical and agricultural sciences. Through these meetings, a common level of understanding on the effects of radiation exposure and on criteria for radiological protection will be sought.

24. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 1990 and to form the basis for follow-up studies.

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

25. Following the Chernobyl accident, an ILO General Observation was formulated concerning the application of the Radiation Protection Convention (No. 115) of 1960 in the case of abnormal conditions of operation. In that Convention, Governments were invited to provide information concerning criteria and standards for the protection of workers in interventions after a radiological accident. The Meeting of Experts, which convened in September 1986, included specific provisions on the limitation of radiation exposure (abnormal conditions) in the ILO Code of Practice on Radiation Prevention of Workers (Ionizing Radiations). The demolition of nuclear power plants involves, in addition to experienced professionals, many groups of workers with no experience in the hazardous operations required. A study is envisaged of the occupational safety and health problems related to decommissioning, after normal operations or after an accident, in co-operation with IAEA and WHO, with a view to planning operations in such a way as to ensure the protection of workers and the environment.

26. The ILO contribution to the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident would be the protection of workers involved in recovery operations. Radiological accidents, as well as chemical and other accidents, usually result from a chain of events where technical, human and organizational factors play a role. ILO standards and technical guidance on occupational safety and health in general, and on radiation protection in particular, are as relevant to the nuclear industry and recovery operations as to other branches of economic activity.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

27. At the request of the three Soviet Republics affected by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the Director General of UNESCO sent out a mission to these countries, as a result of which an initial agreement was signed on 1 June 1990 between UNESCO and the Government of the USSR regarding the establishment and implementation of a programme of scientific research, planning and assistance, awareness-building and fund raising. The main purposes of the project are to increase awareness and re-establish public confidence; to raise funds for research and for the Chernobyl victims; and to establish a scientific programme. A conference of existing and future donors is planned for the end of 1991. UNESCO plans to report on the project to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. Inasmuch as some of the areas covered by the project are related to those dealt with in the IAEA and WHO projects, UNESCO intends to make full use of all existing reports and information and not to duplicate completed or ongoing work.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

28. UNIDO has held discussions with visiting official delegations from the affected area to examine potential activities, such as those requested in the letter of 11 May 1990 from the Ukrainian SSR. Its assistance would most likely be in the rehabilitation or possible relocation to safer areas of affected or damaged industries, in the control of industrial pollution and the like. The scope of damage in the affected area is so immense that UNIDO's limited resources could no more than begin to tackle the problem. An exploratory mission would be necessary to assess more precisely the extent of damage to industry and to determine the scope of technical assistance required. Potential sources of funds will be approached on the possibility of financing projects and activities in the affected region, in co-operation with UNIDO.

World Health Organization (WHO)

29. WHO has played an active role with regard to the health implications of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. This has ranged from international assessments of the possible health impacts immediately following the accident to collaborative efforts with the authorities of the USSR, the Byelorussian SSR and the Ukrainian SSR in investigating the effects on the health of the exposed populations. WHO is also participating in the IAEA co-ordinated project concerned with follow-up to the accident.

30. In April 1990, the scope of collaboration was expanded through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health of the USSR and WHO to establish a long-term international programme to monitor and mitigate the health consequences of the Chernobyl accident. The Programme, when fully implemented, will encompass epidemiological studies; the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of radiation-induced thyroid disease; carcinogenic, teratogenic and genetic effects; contribution of radiation and non-radiation causes of morbidity and mortality; the social and psychosocial aspects of the accident and their health implications; retrospective analysis of the radiation exposure levels and projected dose; international expertise for independent evaluations of the radiation contamination situation, measures on radiation protection and health of the population; and radiation health databanks.

31. The agreement calls for the establishment, in the city of Obninsk, USSR, of an international centre for radiation health concerns with branches in Kiev, Minsk and Bryansk. The Centre will co-ordinate the work of research and medical institutions involved in programme implementation. Other Governments, institutions and individual experts are being invited to participate in the international programme by providing expertise, equipment and resources. It is expected that other international organizations will contribute to the work in their areas of competence.

32. A meeting of representatives of WHO Collaborating Centres in Radiation Emergency Medical Preparedness and Assistance, convened in Leningrad from 21 to 24 May 1990, commented on the first draft of the Programme and explored the possible contribution of the Centres. During the remainder of 1990, it is planned to establish and convene a Scientific Advisory Committee to review and advise on the proposed programme of activities with the participation of other Governments and their research institutions and scientists.

33. Other activities supporting this new initiative concerned with the health effects of the Chernobyl accident include the work of the network of WHO Collaborating Centres on Radiation Emergency Medical Preparedness and Assistance (RAMPAN). The network promotes the strengthening of preparedness in member States for radiation emergencies and can provide medical assistance to people affected by radiation exposure. It also includes the development and operation of the WHO/UNEP Global Environment Radiation Monitoring Network (GERMON), the purpose of which is to collect data on environmental radiation throughout the world and to facilitate the exchange of information in the case of major radioactive releases (see para. 50).

34. The WHO Regional Office for Europe, in collaboration with the All Union Research Centre for Radiation Medicine in Kiev, is implementing activities with emphasis on epidemiological surveys and psychological effects of nuclear accidents. A number of expert meetings are being held in 1990 and 1991 on subjects such as psychological effects of the Chernobyl accident, effects of radionuclides on the thyroid gland and prospective investigations of the effects of the Chernobyl accident on the health of the population.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

35. WMO was among the organizations which responded quickly to the Chernobyl accident. In close co-operation with IAEA and other international organizations, WMO was actively involved in establishing an international emergency response system to nuclear accidents.

36. By agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Weather Watch Global Telecommunication System (GTS) of WMO is used to transmit radioactivity data and relevant meteorological data in support of the IAEA Convention on Early Notification of Nuclear Accidents. The WMO Executive Council Working Group on Accidental Releases of Hazardous Materials has dealt with the lessons learned from the Chernobyl accident and is co-ordinating the efforts of member States in monitoring radioactivity and predicting the atmospheric transport, deposition and dispersion of radionuclides.

37. Within WHO's scope of activity, the Hydrology and Water Resources Programme is relevant to alleviating the longer-term consequences of past accidents, as radioactive water pollution is among the most serious long-term consequences.

38. Ongoing WMO activities within the hydrology field include the preparation of a manual on hydrological aspects of accidental pollution of water bodies. The aim is to provide guidance to hydrological services and water authorities on the role they might play in minimizing the impact of accidental pollution, in particular where an emergency response is called for in the case of the accidental release of hazardous materials. Two meetings of experts on the subject were held in this connection, at Kiev in April 1989 and at Vienna in April 1990. The timetable, as agreed at these meetings, foresees the publication of the manual in time for the Eleventh WMO Congress (1991).

39. A new project on transport, dispersion and retention of hazardous materials in the aquatic environment is designed to investigate problems relating to monitoring, prediction and retention of pollutants. It will involve, in conjunction with IAEA, an evaluation of models for the transport and dispersion of hazardous materials in soils and water bodies and will also promote the study of operational methods for sediment transport measurement in developing countries, particularly through training activities. It will review new methods of examining the exchange of pollutants between water and sediment.

40. In the light of the above information, it should be emphasized that WMO is ready to participate in missions for further assessment of radioactive water pollution in the areas affected by the Chernobyl accident if such further assessment is required.

THE UNITED NATIONS

Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

41. In its studies on global economic and social issues, the Department takes into consideration the economic and social effects of natural disasters and man-made environmental disasters such as the reactor explosion at Chernobyl.

Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

42. While the Department is not in a position to deal with the radiological effects of the accident, and does not have ongoing projects in the region, it possesses expertise in areas that could be helpful in the broader context of redressing the severe economic and social dislocations that have resulted. In this regard the Department could participate in an international programme of co-operation, as envisaged by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1990/211, in substantive fields within its competence, such as overall water resources planning, management and development, formulating economic development plans for the region and population affected, supporting local and regional government institutions in administering rehabilitation and mitigation programmes, assisting in the evaluation of public infrastructure needs in the period ahead, and in the application of the latest surveying and cartographic techniques for physical planning. The Department stands ready to participate in an international programme of co-operation and make available its expertise in these areas.

Economic Commission for Europe

43. In response to the request received from the Governments of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the contribution of the Commission to the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, in co-operation with other international organizations, could include the following areas in which the Commission has competence:

(a) Decontamination and treatment of soil and radioactive wastes by means of deep ploughing, agro-chemical operations and soil tillage (Chemical Industry Committee and Committee on Agricultural Problems);

(b) Treatment of radioactive waste water (Chemical Industry Committee and Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems);

(c) Quality control in food processing (Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation and Committee on Agricultural Problems);

(d) Rehabilitation engineering and aids for the disabled (Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation);

(e) Planning and development of new and existing towns and villages to cope with emergency needs for mass population resettlement (Committee on Housing, Building and Planning).

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

44. In response to the appeal by the Governments of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Centre is prepared, within its mandate and expertise, to contribute to international co-operative efforts to eliminate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

45. In the past, the Centre has provided technical assistance to many countries in disaster-prevention measures for natural and techological disasters, including post-disaster evaluation and assessment of impact, and pre-disaster site evaluation for the location of industries. In March 1989, the Centre sent an advisory mission to the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic as a follow-up to the major earthquake that had occurred in December 1988. An International Symposium on the Mitigation of the Effects of Seismic Activity on Human Settlements, a project sponsored jointly by the Centre and the USSR, was held at Tbilisi, Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic, in November 1989. As a follow-up to that Symposium, the Centre, in co-operation with the Government of the USSR, will launch a project entitled "An international training course on seismic mitigation in human settlements".

Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO)

46. In response to the appeal made by the Governments of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in March 1990 to help launch an international relief effort to cope with the after-effects of the disaster, UNDRO contacted the appropriate United Nations agencies, with a view to establishing a concerted response. Data were gathered on ongoing and planned activities of other United Nations agencies.

Further discussions were held with the Permanent Representatives of the Byelorussian SSR and the Ukrainian SSR on the contents and specifications of the appeal. UNDRO has received from the Government of the Byelorussian SSR a more detailed list of the equipment and medical supplies required. The Office stands ready to collaborate in an inter-agency relief effort by providing its expertise and facilities in needs assessment, evaluating priority needs and informing the international community by, inter alia, launching an appeal.

47. On the eve of the fourth anniversary of the accident, the Co-ordinator called upon the international community to extend maximum support to the two Soviet Republics in their efforts to combat the consequences of the disaster. He noted that, although the United Nations General Assembly had proclaimed the 1990s an International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, no such global effort existed to fight technological and industrial disasters. Yet an accident such as the one at Chernobyl could have the most serious, wide-ranging and long-lasting consequences on society and the environment on an international scale. Drawing from the lessons of Chernobyl, and in line with its mandate to promote mitigation measures for natural as well as man-made disasters, UNDRO is collaborating with the United Nations agencies concerned in planning and elaborating a preparedness strategy for nuclear and other industrial installations, not only in the immediate vicinity of the plants but also in the surrounding regions that may be at risk. The immediate aim is a preparedness and prevention planning exercise around one or more of the other still operational installations of the Chernobyl type. This would include an inter-agency mission to such sites.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

48. From the time of the Chernobyl accident, UNEP has expressed concern about the possible environmental consequences. It has, therefore, been an active member of the Inter-Agency Committee for Response to Nuclear Accidents, has expressed its approval in principle for the proposed Chernobyl Centre for International Research and has offered the geographical information system expertise of its Global Resource Information Data base to those concerned with establishing a suitable international response and tracking mechanism, should a similar nuclear accident occur.

49. UNEP has also continued to provide administrative support to the secretariat of UNSCEAR. The Executive Director of UNEP also provides continuing advice and guidance to the Secretary of UNSCEAR on relevant environmental concerns and issues. UNEP, through the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS), has also made available financial support to facilitate the preparation of the first UNSCEAR assessment of the long-term impact of the Chernobyl accident.

50. As a consequence of the Chernobyl accident, UNEP, in co-operation with WHO, has been active in developing proposals for a Global Environment Radiation Monitoring Network (GERMON) to be implemented as part of GEMS. Expert meetings have been held culminating in a meeting of the GERMON Scientific Advisory Committee in Moscow from 28 to 30 May 1990. That meeting decided that the concept of GERMON was now sufficiently well advanced for initial data-gathering to begin, if possible in the fourth quarter of 1990, through implementation of the network. Forty countries have actively participated in GERMON from the start and it is expected that a further 20 countries would participate if the appropriate technical assistance were made available to enable them to do so effectively.

51. UNEP has also agreed to participate in the forthcoming international assessment of the radiological consequences of Chernobyl, which is being led by IAEA and which will be carried out in mid-1990.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

52. While UNICEF does not currently have any activities in this area, it looks forward to participating in the inter-agency mission, with the expectation that this participation will enable it to best ascertain its role.

United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV)

53. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Promotion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons has responded to the Chernobyl accident through the provision of advice to the Governments concerned. In his contacts with representatives of the Permanent Mission of the USSR in Vienna he discussed potential activities for the rehabilitation of persons disabled by the accident, as well as for the community-based provision of services for victims and their families. It is expected that several concrete proposals will be provided as a result of follow-up activities.

54. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA) could also foresee the provision of advisory services to the authorities concerned regarding the proper relocation and appropriate reintegration of aged persons forced to leave the immediate vicinity of the accident. Such reintegration would stress the active participation of the elderly in developing appropriate solutions to the problems caused by the accident. Elderly citizens should be able to respond in a positive way and contribute to solving some of the problems brought on by the accident, rather than remaining passive victims of its after-effects.

55. The Centre has an active interest in investigating environmental crime and pollution and in identifying problem areas and proposing measures to avoid potential future accidents. Although a special seminar on the subject of environmental crime, which was scheduled to be held at Minsk, has had to be postponed, this interest remains strong and the Centre is eager to participate in future initiatives.

56. To assess more accurately the assistance required in several fields mentioned above, an exploratory mission to the areas affected by the accident would be necessary, consisting of representatives of UNOV.

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

57. Although not a part of the United Nations system, the League has made an important contribution to international efforts to assist in the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. In response to a request from the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, the League sent a mission to the affected areas in January 1990. The terms of reference of the mission were to appraise the current situation and to recommend future actions for the Red Cross/Red Crescent in the USSR. The report of the mission was issued in February 1990.

58. On 25 June 1990 the League launched an appeal entitled "Chernobyl (USSR) - Humanitarian Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme". The appeal defines short-term and medium-term priorities for assistance to the populations of the Byelorussian SSR, the Bryansk District of the Russian Federation and the Ukrainian SSR, which were affected by the long-term consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident. In the short and medium term, the programme will concentrate on the establishment of a regular radiation-level control service by the Red Cross, with an emphasis on rural areas, which will be complementary to the governmental services, assistance in facilitating daily life in the disaster-affected zones with a total population of approximately four million people, health education for the population living in marginally contaminated areas, and participation in upgrading the health and social institutions that provide assistance to the affected population.

SUMMARY

59. From the preceding sections, it can be seen that a number of activities have been undertaken within the framework of the United Nations system to assist the three Governments in question to eliminate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Since its establishment in 1986, the Inter-Agency Committee for a Response to Nuclear Accidents (IAC/RNA) has dealt with follow-up activities concerning accidents, including Chernobyl, and the planning and preparation of the joint co-ordinated action to be taken in the case of future accidents. A number of specialized agencies and related organizations, as well as departments of the United Nations Secretariat, participate in the work of IAC/RNA, which is chaired and serviced by IAEA.

60. IAEA also launched a project earlier this year on the radiological consequences of the Chernobyl accident, with the participation of FAO, WHO, UNSCEAR, UNEP and the Commission of the European Community. A preparatory mission of international experts was sent to the region in March 1990. The project will be completed by the end of 1990 and its report will be made available to the Council at its first regular session of 1991.

61. The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies also undertook a mission to the affected areas in January 1990. On 25 June 1990 the League launched an appeal for a programme of humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation for the population of the affected zones.

62. In addition to their participation in the work of IAC/RNA, FAO, WMO and WHO have undertaken activities designed to assist in the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. ILO has taken steps to apply its Convention on Radiation Protection to the Chernobyl situation.

63. WHO has expanded its activities through an agreement with the Government of the USSR to establish a long-term international programme to monitor and mitigate the health effects of the Chernobyl accident. UNESCO has also signed an agreement with the Government of the USSR as a basis for a programme of scientific research policy and assistance.

64. In addition to its relief operations to assist the three Governments in question, UNDRO has stressed the need for measures designed to prevent similar accidents at other nuclear power plants in the region.

65. Some specialized agencies and departments or offices of the United Nations such as the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, ECE, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), UNEP, UNICEF and UNIDO have cited ways in which their current activities and experience might be of assistance in the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Requests from non-governmental organizations for hearings

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, acting in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) and rule 84 of the Council's rules of procedure, met at Geneva, on 3 July 1990, under the chairmanship of Annie Marie Sundbom (Sweden) to hear requests from non-governmental organizations in consultative status, category I, for hearings by the Council or its sessional committees in connection with items on the Council's agenda.

2. The Committee decided to recommend that the organizations listed below be heard under the agenda item indicated.

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INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Item 2	General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments	Plenary

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS

Item 2	General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments	Plenary
Item 7	Development and international economic co-operation:	
	(b) International development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade	First Committee

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

Item 7	Development and international economic co-operation:	
	(a) Trade and Development Second United Nations Conference on the Least-Developed Countries	Plenary

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF EMPLOYERS

Item 2	General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments	Plenary

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Item 2	General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments	Plenary

WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOUR

Item 2	General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments	Plenary

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